



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

April 28, 2006

Ms. Dorcas R. Hardy, Chairman
WHCoA Policy Committee
4350 East-West Highway, 3rd Floor
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Ms. Hardy:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the resolutions adopted at the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). Our Georgia delegation to the WHCoA diligently and enthusiastically performed their duties to recommend strategies for implementation while at the conference and they are currently working on strategies for Georgia.

Our delegation reached consensus on three resolutions that are consistent with the priorities my administration has set for aging services in Georgia.

#30 Develop a Coordinated, Comprehensive Long-Term Care Strategy by Supporting Public and Private Sector Initiatives that Address Financing, Choice, Quality, Service Delivery and the Paid and Unpaid Workforce.

Our State strategy for long-term care has focused on long-term planning and aging-in-place. This strategy which has been supported by state general fund appropriations and the enactment of state legislation known as the Long-Term Care Partnership Program. State appropriations have targeted planning for financial and personal independence including training sessions, individual counseling, and outreach. Funding for Georgia's Community Care Services Program has been increased by \$4.5 million state dollars in FY06 and FY07, translating into 1,200 additional seniors with access to community services rather than institutional care.

#67 Develop a National Strategy for Supporting Informal Caregivers of Seniors to Enable Adequate Quality and Supply of Services.

Our long-term care efforts have been combined with an emphasis on caregiver supports through programs such as faith-based congregational respite services and our Area Agencies on Aging. These programs have established day care and respite services in 12 new communities. Kinship Care Resource Networks has also been established in 12 new communities, providing information and referral, case management and social supports to seniors and their caregivers.

#37 Prevent Disease and Promote Healthier Lifestyles through Educating Providers and Consumers on Consumer Healthcare.

Last year, the Governor's Live Healthy Georgia campaign was implemented with the goal of achieving better health outcomes for all Georgians through prevention and education programs. A major component of this campaign is our Division of Aging Services program that advances health and wellness issues such as nutrition, depression screening and treatment. A healthy senior population is essential for reducing institutional care and promoting independence as more Georgians than ever before are entering their senior years.

We look forward to the on-going work of the WHCoA Policy Committee and welcome a partnership to provide the framework that will enhance the lives of older adults. If you need any assistance please feel free to contact Maria Greene, Director of the Georgia's Division of Aging Services, at (404) 657-5252 or Abel Ortiz, my Health and Human Services Policy Advisor at (404) 656-1784.

Best regards for the continued success on implementation of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging resolutions. I look forward to the final report to the President and Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Sonny Perdue